

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

LeRoy Koppendrayner
Marshall Johnson
Phyllis A. Reha
Gregory Scott

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of an Extended Area Service
Petition From the Maple Lake Exchange to the
Metropolitan Flat Rate Calling Area

ISSUE DATE: September 12, 2003

DOCKET NO. P-404, 407, 405, 520, 413, 426,
427, 421, 430/CP-96-699

ORDER AUTHORIZING RECOVERY OF
ONE-TIME COSTS

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On June 18, 1996, subscribers in the Maple Lake exchange submitted a petition for extended area service (EAS) to the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan calling area (the MCA). Maple Lake is served by Lakedale Telephone Company (Lakedale).

Polling of telephone subscribers in the Maple Lake exchange took place between August 21 and October 11, 2002.

On December 11, 2002, the Commission issued an Order certifying that the subscribers in the Maple Lake exchange approved of the EAS route to the MCA and requiring Lakedale to implement the EAS route within 12 months of the Order.

On February 10, 2003, Lakedale filed an implementation plan with the Commission, indicating the EAS route between Maple Lake and the MCA will be implemented on December 2, 2003.

On July 21, 2003, Lakedale filed a petition with the Commission requesting recovery of non-recurring costs assessed by the Commission pursuant to M.S. 237.295 for this case.

The Commission met on September 4, 2003 to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

I. Summary of Commission Findings and Action

Lakedale's petition is timely and the amount it proposes to recover is appropriate. The Commission will therefore approve the Company's petition and authorize the requested recovery.

II. Request Timely

In its December 11, 2002 Order in this matter certifying polling results and requiring implementation, the Commission specified that Lakedale must make requests for recovery of non-recurring costs at least 120 days before the planned implementation date. Lakedale filed the petition for recovery of non-recurring costs on July 21, 2003, which is more than 120 days before the implementation date of December 2, 2003.

III. Appropriate Amount Proposed for One-Time Recovery

The Commission permits companies that are required to install EAS to recover all their one-time costs, except the postage necessary to return the EAS ballots to the Commission, through a one-month surcharge.¹

In its petition to recover its non-recurring EAS costs, Lakedale stated that it was billed \$5,390 by the Commission for the cost of preparing, mailing and processing the EAS ballots for customers in Maple Lake. Of that amount, Lakedale requested authorization to recover \$3,721: \$5,390 minus postage of \$1,669. Lakedale proposed to recover that amount (\$3,721) by billing subscribers a one-time charge of \$1.20 per access line.

The Commission finds that Lakedale has requested to recover the proper amount and since the Company has 3,107 access lines, its calculation of the one-time charge per customer line (\$1.20) is correct.

ORDER

1. Lakedale's petition requesting recovery of non-recurring costs is granted.

¹ See ORDER ADOPTING GUIDELINES FOR EXTENDED AREA SERVICE RATES FOR THE BELLE PLAINE, NEW PRAGUE, WATERTOWN AND NEW GERMANY EXCHANGES AND VARYING TIME FOR FILING FOR RECONSIDERATION issued January 25, 1991 in Docket Nos. P-405, 421/CP-86-55; P-520, 421/CP-86-537; P-421, 407/CP-87-536; P-407, 421, 430, 405, 426/CI-90-440 at page 14.

2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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